



### DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or the below named inventors believe they are the original, first and joint inventors (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **PREPARATION OF RUBBER COMPOSITIONS WITH ORGANOCLAYS**, the specification of which:

is attached herewith.  
 was filed on October 23, 2003 as Application Serial No. 10/692,007.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application, as "materiality" is defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

#### PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

##### Priority Claimed

N/A (Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	Yes/No
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N/A (Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	Yes/No
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to the patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application, as "materiality" is defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which become available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

N/A (Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	Pending (Status)
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N/A (Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	Pending (Status)
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I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

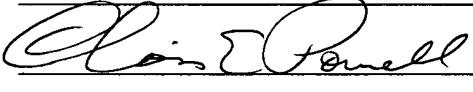
N/A	
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)
N/A	
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to: 1) customer number 35690; and 2)

Eric B. Meyertons  
MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.  
P.O. Box 398  
Austin, Texas 78767-0398  
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I hereby declare that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor's Full Name: Clois E. Powell

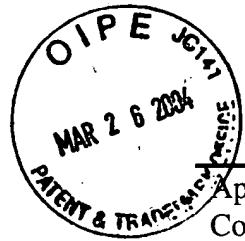
Inventor's Signature:  Date: Feb 16, 2004

Country of Residence: United States Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address: 336 Lake Ridge Dr. Seguin, TX. 78155  
(Include number, street name, city, state and zip code)

## PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

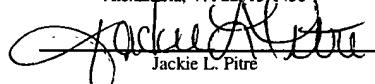


Application No.: 10/692,007  
 Confirmation No.: 8509  
 Filed: October 23, 2003  
 Inventor(s):

Clois E. Powell

Title: PREPARATION OF  
 RUBBER  
 COMPOSITIONS WITH  
 ORGANOCLAYS

§ Examiner: Unknown  
 § Art Unit: 1714  
 § Atty. Dkt. No: 5628-18900

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8	
DATE OF DEPOSIT: 3/23/04	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	
 Jackie L. Pire	

ELECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 3.71 AND 3.73 AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned, being Assignee of record of the entire interest in the above-identified application by virtue of an assignment recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as set forth below, hereby elects, under 37 C.F.R. § 3.71, to prosecute the application to the exclusion of the inventors.

The Assignee hereby revokes any previous Powers of Attorney and appoints: (1) the practitioners at Customer Number 35690; and (2)

Mark K. Brightwell	Reg. No. 47,446
Kay A. Colapret	Reg. No. 52,759
Steve J. Curran	Reg. No. 50,664
Mark R. DeLuca	Reg. No. 44,649
Heather L. Flanagan	Reg. No. 54,101
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Clois E. Powell  
10/692,007

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each an attorney or agent of the firm of MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C., as its attorney or agent for so long as they remain with such firm, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute the application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith, and to receive any Letters Patent, and for one year after issuance of such Letters Patent to file any request for a certificate of correction that may be deemed appropriate.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 3.73, the undersigned has reviewed the evidentiary documents, specifically the Assignment to Southern Clay Products, Inc., referenced below, and certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, title remains in the name of the Assignee.

Please direct all communications as follows:

Eric B. Meyertons, Esq.  
MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.  
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AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767-0398  
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ASSIGNEE:

SOUTHERN CLAY PRODUCTS, INC.

By: M.E. Hudson  
m.e. Hudson  
Title: Vice President, R&D

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSIGNMENT: x Enclosed for recording